

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-13 (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) A method for constructing a joint subject to seismic loading conditions comprising:

a support member having a first curved flange end connector and forming a first hold for receiving a pin;

a plate assembly having at least one connection plate forming a second hole, and a second curved flange end connector;

wherein the curvature of the first curved flange end connector generally matches the curvature of the second curved flange end connector; ~~by providing two opposing support members having generally curved end connections that match the curvature of one another and~~

~~securing the first curved flange end connector to the second curved flange end connector the two opposing support members together such that the support member one support member~~
is allowed to rotate relative to the ~~other support member~~ plate assembly about the first and second curved flange end connectors ~~connection when subject to extreme loading conditions.~~

15. (Original) The method for constructing a joint subject to seismic loading conditions of claim 14, where the curved ends of the two opposing support members are secured to one another via high-strength bolts.

16. (Original) The method for constructing a joint subject to seismic loading conditions of claim 14, where a shim is placed between the curved end connections of the two opposing support members to achieve a predictable slip threshold.

17. (Original) The method for constructing a joint subject to seismic loading

conditions of claim 14, where the two opposing supporting members are connected to one another via a pin connection.

18. (Currently Amended) The method for constructing a joint subject to seismic loading conditions of claim 16 ~~17~~, where the shim is made of brass.

19. (Currently Amended) The method for constructing a joint subject to seismic loading conditions of claim 16 ~~17~~, where the shim is made of steel.

20. (Currently Amended) The method for constructing a joint subject to seismic loading conditions of claim 16 ~~17~~, where the shim is made of teflon.

21. (Currently Amended) The method for constructing a joint subject to seismic loading conditions of claim 16 ~~17~~, where the shim is made of bronze.